

Mark Your Calendar

Stop By Anytime

Tuesday, October 21, 6-8 pm
Public Open House and Scoping Meeting
Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce
912 East Main Street in downtown Battle Ground

Project Contact

Call, write, or e-mail us with your questions or comments.

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Visit our Project Web Site at:

http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR502_Interchange/

SR 502 Interchange Project

Washington State
Department of Transportation
PO Box 1709
Vancouver, WA 98668-1709



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Department of Transportation

SR 502 Interchange Project

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Public Information and Participation

This newsletter is the first of many opportunities you will have to learn about this project—from the Environmental Assessment through construction. Through public notices, a Web site, mailers, and the local media, we will let you know what is going on and how you can participate. We also want to know what you think. You can send us your comments in writing, by e-mail, or give them to us when you attend one of the upcoming meetings. **You'll find whom to contact on the back page.**

Share this information with friends and neighbors. To get on our mailing list please send your name and address to the project contact listed on the back page.

SR 502 Interchange Creating Access to I-5 from Battle Ground and North Clark County

A project is underway to build a new interchange connecting Interstate 5 to State Route 502. When constructed, this interchange will ease congestion, improve safety and provide more direct access to Battle Ground and portions of north Clark County.

As the project proponent, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is leading efforts to design and construct the new interchange. The project is now entering the Environmental Assessment stage. This assessment will:

- include an evaluation of possible interchange ramp locations and routes for the connection to I-5;
- determine potential impacts of possible alignments on the environment (natural, ecological, social and economic);
- evaluate options for lessening (mitigating) these impacts; and
- determine necessary regulatory approvals.

This information will help guide final design and construction. The Environmental Assessment is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Washington State Environmental Policy Act.

Project Background

The new interchange is an important step toward improving mobility and safety along the I-5 corridor. The demands on the interstate—from local and regional growth, interstate travel and freight movement—are putting pressure on the interstate and local roads. In a nutshell, more people, more cars, more congestion. *(Continued on page 2)*

Inside Story

Project Background • Why Are We Building This Interchange? • Preliminary Project Schedule • Open House and Scoping Comment Period • Vicinity Map • Mark Your Calendar • Project Contact

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In 2001, WSDOT completed a two-year study of the I-5/I-205 interstate corridor. As part of that study, the short- and long-term interstate and interchange needs in the north Clark County area were identified. Many Clark County businesses and residents participated in development of that plan, which recommended a new I-5 interchange near NE 219th Street, in the vicinity of the Gee Creek rest area.

Following this I-5/I-205 North Corridor Plan, WSDOT considered several alternatives for an interchange in this area. After extensive public involvement, WSDOT selected a *recommended operational alternative* that now serves as a starting point for the Environmental Assessment. This interchange concept was granted conditional approval by the Federal Highway Administration as the new connection to the interstate

system, but it does not necessarily represent a final plan. The Federal Highway Administration is also the NEPA lead agency.



The SR 502 interchange is moving from concept to reality with \$34.7 million in funding from the 2003 Legislative Transportation Package. This funding will cover project design, right-of-way acquisition and construction.

Why Are We Building This Interchange?

Construction of a new interchange connecting SR 502 to I-5 will:

- ease congestion and improve safety both northbound and southbound on I-5;
- improve safety along NE 10th Avenue by reducing traffic at several locations; and
- improve access to Battle Ground.

Preliminary Project Schedule

Fall 2003	Environmental Assessment Open House and Scoping Meeting Introduce the project purpose, review preliminary concept alternatives, and gather comments. These conceptual designs will illustrate preliminary options for I-5 on and off ramps and connections to local roads.
Fall-Winter 2003	Develop detailed alternatives and begin identification of potential impacts
Winter 2003	Public review of design alternatives WSDOT will consider public input when selecting the preferred alternative.
Fall 2004	Public review of preferred alternative WSDOT will select one alternative for a more detailed Environmental Assessment and discussion with the public.
Spring 2005	Public review of Environmental Assessment The assessment will identify the environmental impacts of the preferred alternative.
Fall 2004-Winter 2005/2006	Final design of selected alternative
Summer 2005-Fall 2006	Right-of-way acquisition WSDOT may need to purchase additional property to make room for interchange construction.
Spring 2007	Construction begins
2009	Construction complete

Open House and Scoping Comment Period

Tuesday, October 21

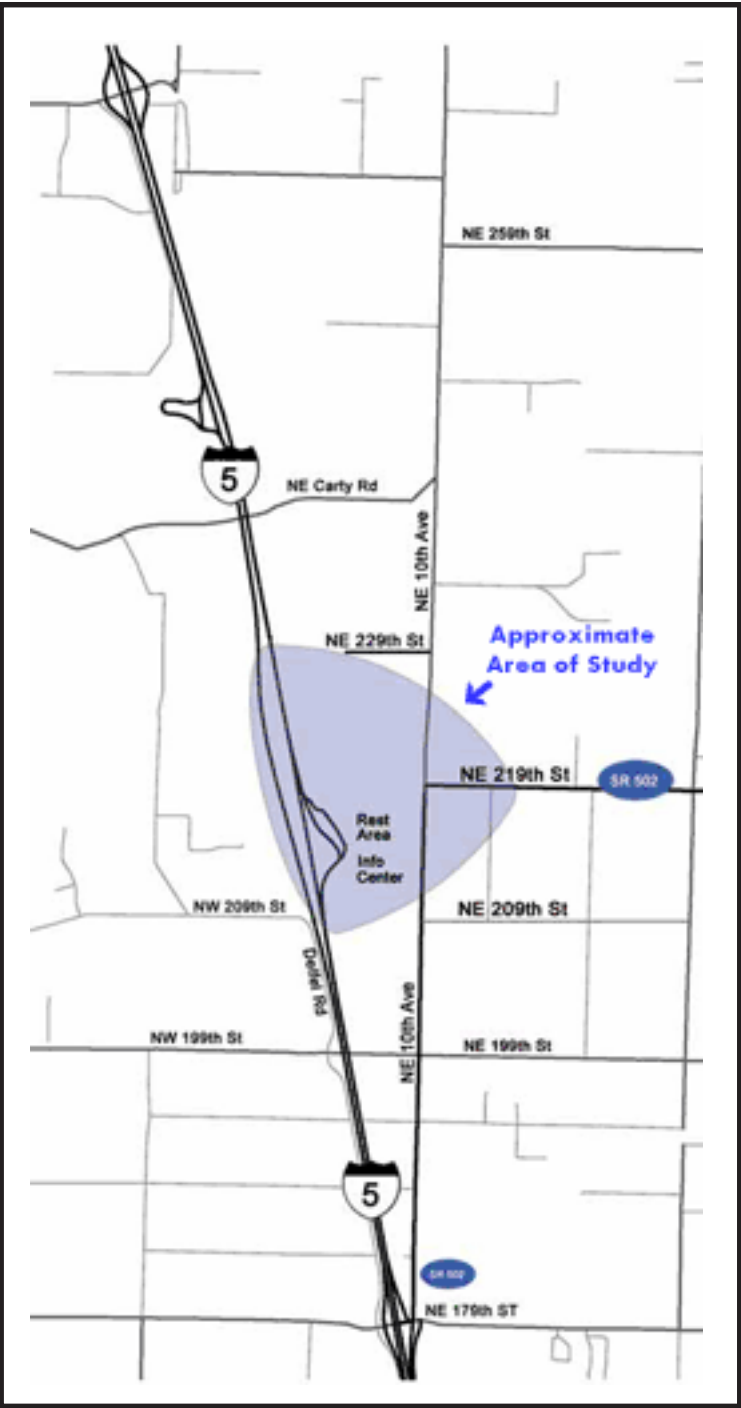
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (stop by anytime)
Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce
912 East Main Street in downtown
Battle Ground



The project's first open house will introduce the project goals and present preliminary concept alternatives. It is also a Scoping Meeting to gather your comments for consideration by the project team during the Environmental Assessment and preliminary design process. Come by at anytime to view maps and exhibits, ask questions and provide comments. **Written scoping comments will be taken from October 7 until November 21, 2003, and can be sent by mail or e-mail to the project contact listed on the back.**

If you are unable to attend the open house, visit our Web site at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR502/Interchange> for the latest project information and a comment form you can complete and submit.

Vicinity Map



This map illustrates the approximate area under consideration for new I-5 on and off ramps and connections to SR 502 (locally known as NE 219th Street). The new interchange will be located between NE 209th Street and NE 229th Street. WSDOT will evaluate specific ramp and connector locations, using specific evaluation criteria (such as environmental and traffic impacts) and input from both earlier and upcoming public discussions.